



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/835,443	04/17/2001	Yoshinobu Shiraiwa	35.C15299	5474
5514	7590	12/23/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO 30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA NEW YORK, NY 10112			COLILLA, DANIEL JAMES	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2854	

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/835,443

Applicant(s)

SHIRAIWA, YOSHINOBU

Examiner

Daniel J. Colilla

Art Unit

2854

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8-11 and 14-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6,8-11 and 14-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 17 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 9-10 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claims 9-10, lines 3-4 of each, applicant recites “conveying the printing paper while holding the outside portions of the printing paper.” It is not clear what applicant intends to mean by “holding the outside portions.” There does not appear to be any structure disclosed which holds both outside portions while the center portion is printed. It would appear that the roller pair 4 as shown in Figure 1 of applicant’s drawings is only capable of holding *one* of the outside portions during *a portion* of the printing of the center portion.

In claims 21-24, the language, “even if the printing paper is conveyed from either one of the pair of outside portions” is vague and indefinite. It is not clear what it means to convey the printing paper from an outside portion.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

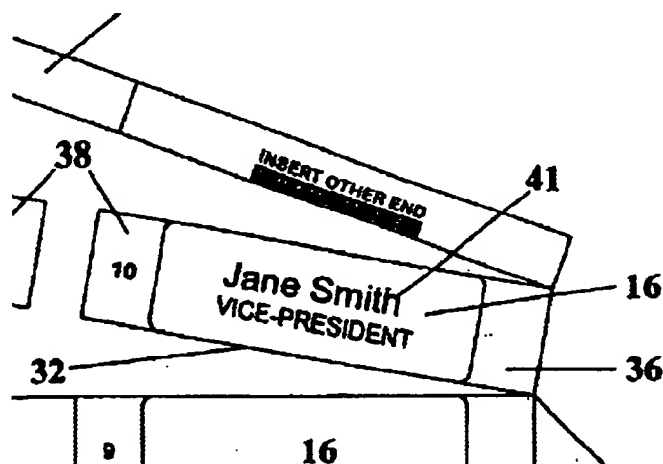
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 2854

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-2, 4 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chaikel et al. (US 6,726,252).

With respect to claim 1, Chaikel et al. discloses a printing paper including a center portion 16 having a rectangular form and a pair of outside portions 36,38 as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 4 of Chaikel et al.:



The paper includes two pairs of opposite sides; the outside portions 36,38 are connected to one pair of opposite sides and the other remaining pair of opposite sides is not connected to any other paper. The outside portions 36,38 are edge portions because they are located along the edges of the center portion. Figure 4 of Chaikel et al. shows that both the center portion 16 and the outside portions 36 and 38 are formed so that the four corners of the center portion have a round shape before and after removing the outside portions from the center portion.

Art Unit: 2854

With respect to claim 2, Chaikel et al. discloses tear lines 32 between the center portion 16 and the outer portions 36,38 in col. 6, lines 60-63. In col. 5, lines 24-25, Chaikel et al. discloses that tear lines 32 are perforated.

With respect to claim 4, Chaikel et al. shows in Figure 4 that the round shape of the corners is an arc form.

With respect to claim 17, Chaikel et al. discloses a printing paper that is capable of not being printed on the outside portions.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Duff (GB 1378142).

With respect to claims 1 and 5, Duff discloses a paper or label paper which could be used for printing including a self-adhesive strip that could be used for receiving an image and a supporting layer (removable backing strip) as disclosed on page 1, lines 40-42 of Duff. Duff further discloses a center portion having a rectangular form (Duff, page 1, lines 90-92) having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 1 of Duff:

Art Unit: 2854

With respect to claims 19-20, Duff discloses that the lines 15 are straight lines.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

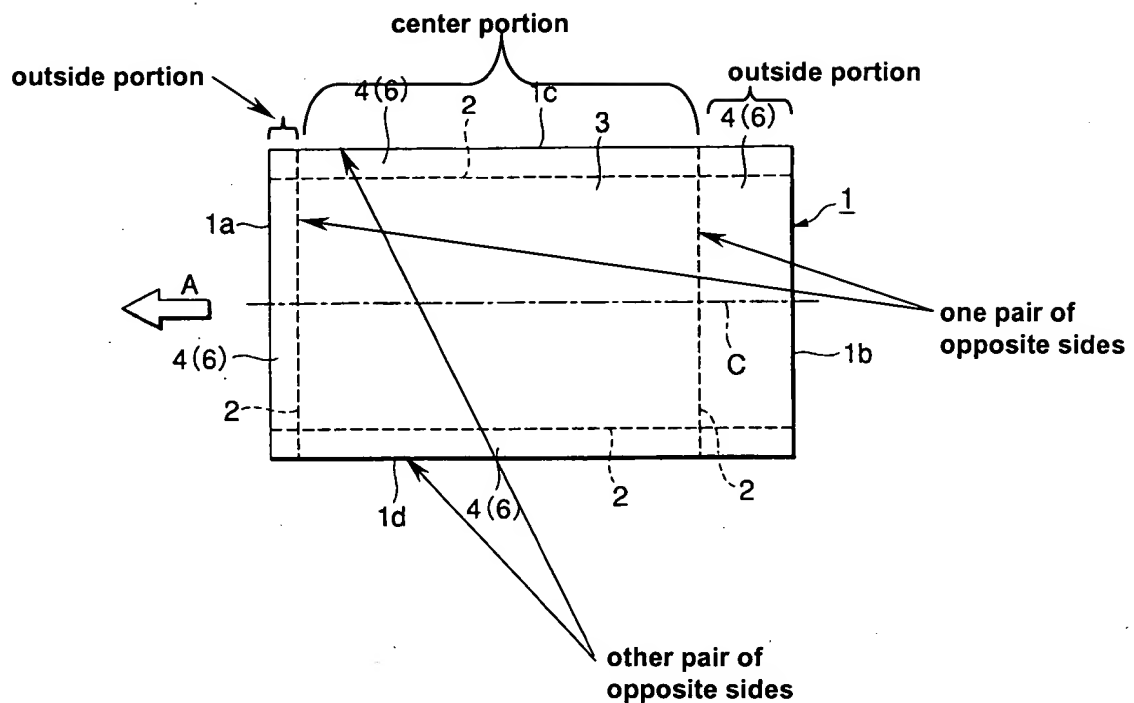
6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8 and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi (US 6,652,171) in view of either of Doerr et al. (US 5,658,648) or Osborne (US 5,379,538).

With respect to claims 1 and 5, Onishi discloses the claimed printing paper (or label printing paper) except for the four corners having a round shape. Onishi discloses a printing paper as shown in Figures 14-15 of Onishi. In col. 8, lines 52-67, Onishi discloses that the printing paper 1 which has a top surface as a printing layer may have a release sheet that is a supporting layer. A center portion having a rectangular form and two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and outside portions are shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 14 of Onishi:

FIG.14



The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and the other pair of opposite sides are not connected to any other paper. Either of Osborne or Doerr et al. teach labels with rounded corners as shown in Figures 7 and 1 respectively.

It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Osborne with the printing paper (or label printing paper) disclosed by Onishi to create a center portion with rounded corners for the advantage of a label that does not easily snag and a label that is more aesthetically appealing (Osborne col. 7, lines 24-28 and lines 33-40).

It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Doerr et al. with the printing paper (or label printing paper) disclosed by Onishi to create a center portion with rounded corners for the advantage of a label less likely to curl (Doerr et al., col. 9, lines 50-55).

With respect to claims 6 and 2, Onishi discloses easy separating means 2 which can be perforations between the center portion and the outside portion (col. 5, lines 47-51).

Art Unit: 2854

With respect to claims 8 and 4, the round shapes disclosed by either of Osborne or Doerr et al. are arc forms.

With respect to claims 15-16, Onishi in view of either of Osborne or Doerr et al. discloses the claimed printing paper (or label printing paper) except for the exact size of the center portion. However, Onishi discloses that the printing medium 1 may be any size including a name card size (Onishi, col. 9, lines 34-36). It is noted here that the standard name card size is approximately 55 mm X 90 mm (US 6,774,980 to Hoshino col. 8, lines 19-20, US 6,383,452 to Miyake et al., col. 5, lines 38-40 and US 6,369,332 to Saitoh et al. col. 27, lines 26-28 may be referenced to determine standard name card size). While the dimensions disclosed by Onishi are not exactly the same as those disclosed in claim 15 and 16, the claimed size of printing paper (or label printing paper) would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since a slight change of size of the prior art is not a basis for patentability (see MPEP 2143.01, part IV, section A).

With respect to claims 17-18, Onishi discloses a printing paper (or label printing paper) capable of not being printed on the outside portions.

8. Claims 9-11, 14 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onishi (US 6,652,171) in view of either of Doerr et al. (US 5,658,648) or Osborne (US 5,379,538) as applied to claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 15, 16, 17 and 18 above, and further in view of Nakanishi (US 6,153,557)

With respect to claims 9-10, Onishi in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne disclose the claimed printing process including the step of providing the claimed printing paper (or label printing paper) of claims 1 and 5 respectively except that it is not known if the printer disclosed

Art Unit: 2854

by Onishi is arranged to print while holding the outside portions of the printing paper (or label printing paper). However, Nakanishi teaches a printer that prints on a center portion of a printing paper (or label printing paper) 30 shown in Figure 2 of Nakanishi with a printer shown in Figure 3 of Nakanishi. In col. 6, lines 35-60, Nakanishi details how the conveyor roller pair 53 holds the printing paper (or label printing paper) 30 as it sequentially prints three colors on the paper. The roller pair 53 moves the sheet back and forth to print these colors on a center portion of the paper 30. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Nakanishi with the printing process disclosed by Onishi in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne for the advantage of drying the ink between the printing steps of printing each color (Nakanishi, col. 5, lines 27-37) therefore preventing smearing of previously printed colors while a new color is being printed.

With respect to claims 11 and 14, Onishi in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne disclose the claimed printing system except that it is not known if the printer disclosed by Onishi has a pair of conveyor rollers. However, Nakanishi teaches a print head 57 and a pair of conveyor rollers 53, as shown in Figure 3 of Nakanishi, which hold the outside portions of the printing paper (or label printing paper) to convey the paper. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Nakanishi with the printing process disclosed by Onishi in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne for the advantage of drying the ink between the printing steps of printing each color (Nakanishi, col. 5, lines 27-37) therefore preventing smearing of previously printed colors while a new color is being printed.

With respect to claims 21-24, to the extent that these claims can be understood in light of the above 112, second paragraph rejection, it appears that Onishi in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne and Nakanishi disclose the claimed process. The pair of conveyor rollers disclosed by

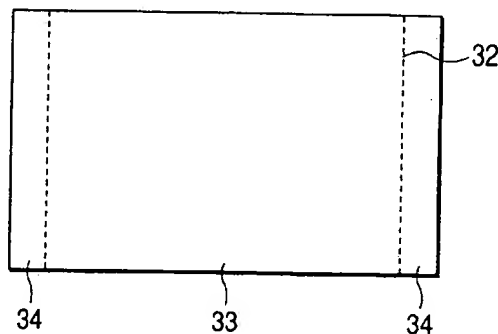
Art Unit: 2854

Nakanishi hold the paper until the printing is completed as mentioned above and in col. 5, lines 27-37 of Nakanishi. The printer disclosed by Nakanishi can print over the entire center portion that is intended to be printed regardless of how the printing paper is conveyed.

9. Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admitted prior art in view of either of Doerr et al. (US 5,658,648) or Osborne (US 5,379,538).

With respect to claims 1 and 5, in applicant's admission of prior art applicant describes the claimed printing paper (or label printing paper) except for the four corners having a round shape. On page 4, line 6 through page 6, line 15, and in Figures 13-14 applicant as shown below in the Figure taken from Figure 13 of applicant's disclosure, the prior art teaches a printing paper or label printing paper with a center portion having a rectangular form, having two pairs of opposite sides connected by four corners and a pair of outside portions connected to the center portion at one pair of the two pairs of opposite sides of the center portion:

FIG. 13
PRIOR ART



Art Unit: 2854

The outside portions are edge portions of the printing paper and the other pair of opposite sides are not connected to any other paper. Either of Osborne or Doerr et al. teach labels with rounded corners as shown in Figures 7 and 1 respectively.

It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Osborne with the printing paper (or label printing paper) disclosed in applicant's admission of prior art to create a center portion with rounded corners for the advantage of a label that does not easily snag and a label that is more aesthetically appealing (Osborne col. 7, lines 24-28 and lines 33-40).

It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Doerr et al. with the printing paper (or label printing paper) disclosed in applicant's admission of prior art to create a center portion with rounded corners for the advantage of a label less likely to curl (Doerr et al., col. 9, lines 50-55).

With respect to claims 6 and 2, applicant discloses in his admission of prior art easy perforations between the center portion and the outside portion as shown in applicant's Figure 13.

With respect to claims 8 and 4, the round shapes disclosed by either of Osborne or Doerr et al. are arc forms.

With respect to claims 17-18, Onishi discloses a printing paper (or label printing paper) capable of not being printed on the outside portions.

10. Claims 9-11, 14 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission of prior art in view of either of Doerr et al. (US 5,658,648) or

Art Unit: 2854

Osborne (US 5,379,538) as applied to claims 1-2, 4-6, 8, 17 and 18 above, and further in view of Nakanishi (US 6,153,557)

With respect to claims 9-10, applicant's admission of prior art in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne disclose the claimed printing process including the step of providing the claimed printing paper (or label printing paper) of claims 1 and 5 respectively except that it is not known if the printer used for printing the paper is arranged to print while holding the outside portions of the printing paper (or label printing paper). However, Nakanishi teaches a printer that prints on a center portion of a printing paper (or label printing paper) 30 shown in Figure 2 of Nakanishi with a printer shown in Figure 3 of Nakanishi. In col. 6, lines 35-60, Nakanishi details how the conveyor roller pair 53 holds the printing paper (or label printing paper) 30 as it sequentially prints three colors on the paper. The roller pair 53 moves the sheet back and forth to print these colors on a center portion of the paper 30. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Nakanishi with the printing process disclosed by applicant's admission of prior art in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne for the advantage of drying the ink between the printing steps of printing each color (Nakanishi, col. 5, lines 27-37) therefore preventing smearing of previously printed colors while a new color is being printed.

With respect to claims 11 and 14, applicant's admission of prior art in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne disclose the claimed printing system except that it is not known if the printer used to print the paper has a pair of conveyor rollers. However, Nakanishi teaches a print head 57 and a pair of conveyer rollers 53, as shown in Figure 3 of Nakanishi, which hold the outside portions of the printing paper (or label printing paper) to convey the paper. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Nakanishi with the printing process disclosed by

Art Unit: 2854

applicant's admission of prior art in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne for the advantage of drying the ink between the printing steps of printing each color (Nakanishi, col. 5, lines 27-37) therefore preventing smearing of previously printed colors while a new color is being printed.

With respect to claims 21-24, to the extent that these claims can be understood in light of the above 112, second paragraph rejection, it appears that applicant's admission of prior art in view of either of Doerr et al. or Osborne and Nakanishi disclose the claimed process. The pair of conveyer rollers disclosed by Nakanishi hold the paper until the printing is completed as mentioned above and in col. 5, lines 27-37 of Nakanishi. The printer disclosed by Nakanishi can print over the entire center portion that is intended to be printed regardless of how the printing paper is conveyed.

11. Claims 1-2, 4, 15, 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Nakaya.

With respect to claim 1, McLeod discloses the claimed printing paper except for the round shape of the four corners. McLeod discloses a printing paper with a center portion 10a and two end portions 10b and 10c. The center portion has two pairs of opposite sides and four corners as shown in Figures 1, 5 and 6 of McLeod. Additionally, one pair of opposite sides of the central portion 10a have no other printing paper attached. Nakaya teaches a printed sheet 2 (therefore a printing paper) with a central portion 1. The four corners of the central portion 1 are rounded as shown in Figure 1 of Nakaya. It is noted that the right side of the central portion 1 is not attached to any other printing paper, thus it is known to create rounded corners at an edge of a printing paper. The selection of rounded corners over squared corners would have been an obvious variation to one of ordinary skill in the art which would be selected for the aesthetic

Art Unit: 2854

design of the paper and for the reduction of catching when the printed item is inserted into holders such as pocketed folders, wallets or shirt pockets.

With respect to claim 2, McLeod discloses that the printing paper has perforations 12 and 14 between the center portion 10a and the outside portions 10b and 10c.

With respect to claim 4, the round corners taught by Nakaya are shaped as arcs as shown in Figure 1 of Nakaya.

With respect to claim 15, any size or printing paper would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since the size of the paper has no bearing on the above mentioned structure.

With respect to claim 17, McLeod discloses a printing paper where an image is not formed on the outside portions.

With respect to claim 19, to the extent that this claim can be understood, McLeod discloses perforations in a straight line.

12. Claims 5-6, 8, 16, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Skees and Nakamura.

With respect to claim 5 McLeod discloses the claimed printing paper except for the round shape of the four corners and that the paper is a label. McLeod discloses a printing paper with a center portion 10a and two end portions 10b and 10c. The center portion has two pairs of opposite sides and four corners as shown in Figure 1, 5 and 6 of McLeod. Additionally, one pair of opposite sides of the center portion 10a have no other printing paper attached.

Art Unit: 2854

Skees teaches a printed sheet 26 (therefore a printing paper) with an inner portion 36.

The four corners of the portion 36 are rounded as shown in Figure 7 of Skees. It is noted that the bottom side of the inner portion 36 is not attached to any other label printing paper. thus it is known to create rounded corners at an edge of a label printing paper. The selection of rounded corners of Skees over squared corners disclosed by McLeod would have been an obvious variation to one of ordinary skill in the art which would be selected for the aesthetic design of the paper and for the reduction of flagging (peeling off) of the corners.

Nakamura teaches a card 74 that is a central portion of a larger sheet 72 as shown in figure 6 of Nakamura. Card 74 can be separated from a sheet 72 and applied as a label through the use of adhesive 76. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Nakamura with the printing paper disclosed by McLeod for the advantage of permanently fixing the printed card to another surface for decorative purposes or to another sheet of paper for informational purposes.

With respect to claim 6, McLeod discloses that the printing paper has perforations 12 and 14 between the center portion 10a and the outside portions 10b and 10c.

With respect to claim 8, the round corners taught by Skees are shaped as arc as shown in Figure 7 of Skees.

With respect to claim 16, any size or printing paper would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since the size of the paper has no bearing on the above mentioned structure.

With respect to claim 18, McLeod discloses a printing paper where an image is not formed on the outside portions.

Art Unit: 2854

With respect to claim 20, to the extent that this claim can be understood, McLeod discloses perforations in a straight line.

13. Claims 9-11 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLeod in view of Skees and Nakamura, as applied to claims 1, 2 4 and 15 above, and further in view of Hirano et al.

With respect to claims 9 and 10, McLeod in view of Skees and Nakamura discloses a printing paper as mentioned above, but it is not known to the examiner what type of feeding device is used in the printer 4. However, Hirano et al. teaches that it is known to feed a label paper through a printer while holding the outside edges of a label media as shown in Figure 3 of Hirano et al. It would have been obvious to combine the teaching of Hirano et al. with the label printing paper disclosed by McLeod in view of Skees and Nakamura for the advantage of feeding the label media in both direction in order to maintain the correct tension in the media (see abstract of Hirano et al.). Additionally, it would have been obvious to print on label paper for the self-adhesive advantages of labels.

With respect to claims 11 and 14, Hirano et al. discloses a printing system including a printhead 24 and two rollers 17 and 18 which hold the entire label including the outside portions as shown in Figures 1 and 3 of Hirano et al.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments filed 9/9/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive of any error in the above rejection.

Art Unit: 2854

New grounds of rejection have been made based on newly found references.

Additionally, a new rejection has been based on applicant's admitted prior art.

The grounds of rejection from the last Office action are maintained as well. Regarding the combination of McLeod in view of Nakaya, in response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, the motivation is comes from the knowledge generally available in the art. Since applicant is broadly claiming a printing paper, one of ordinary skill in the art would have the knowledge of this broad art including printing sheets with or without cards. Curved corners are well-known throughout the art of printing papers and have a definite aesthetic and functional advantage that would clearly be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

Similarly, in the combination of McLeod in view of Skees and Nakamura, one of ordinary skill in the art would know from knowledge generally available in the art of printing sheets that rounded corners can advantageously be used in all printing mediums.

15. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dan Colilla whose telephone number is (571)272-2157. The examiner can normally be reached Mon.-Thur. between 7:30 am and 6:00 pm. Faxes regarding this application can be sent to (703)872 - 9306.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached at (571)272-2168. Any inquiry of a general nature

Art Unit: 2854

or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0956.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 16, 2004



Daniel J. Colilla
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2854